

Team B: disagree

You will now participate in a “philosophical chairs” type debate on the Dream Act:

The DREAM Act will increase illegal immigration.

You are on the team B, you will **disagree** with this statement.

What is the Dream Act?

The dream Act: (Wikipedia.com)

This bill would provide conditional permanent residency to certain undocumented students of good moral character who graduate from US high schools, arrived in the US illegally as minors, and lived in the country continuously for at least five years prior to the bill's enactment. If they were to complete two years in the military or two years at a four year institution of higher learning, the students would obtain temporary residency for a six year period. Within the six year period, a student may qualify who has "acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States or has completed at least 2 years, in good standing, in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the United States" or have "served in the armed services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, has received an honorable discharge". Military enlistment contracts require an eight year commitment, with active duty commitments typically between four and six years, but as low as two years. "Any alien whose permanent resident status is terminated... shall return to the immigration status the alien had immediately prior to receiving conditional permanent resident status under this Act." This bill would have included undocumented immigrants as old as 35 years of age.

Here is a set of experts from articles you may use to formulate your arguments. Discuss with your team members for 5 minutes and plan your arguments. You will then participate in the debate.

Talking points from Causaoregon.org, Oregon's immigrants right's coalition

http://www.causaoregon.org/pdfs/lus_factsht.doc/view?searchterm=dream

Every year, between 50,000 & 65,000, bright high school students graduate from high school & wish to continue on to college but are denied this opportunity because of their immigration status.

- The opportunity of higher education is denied, despite the fact that these students have attended primary & secondary schools in the United States & are academically qualified for college
- Facing non-resident tuition that is at least three & a half times higher than in-state rates, most undocumented students are forced to discontinue their education after high school
- Other undocumented students drop out of high school because they now they will be unable to attend college

Assessing tuition for all high school graduates, regardless of immigration status, would increase access to college & thus provide returns to the country

- College graduates earn up to 75% more than workers with a high school diploma.
- Increased earning power means increased contributions to the country's economy
- The United States needs to provide college access for all its college-qualified high school graduates in order to continue building an educated workforce

The DREAM Act will open a door of opportunities for the students who deserve it

- The DREAM Act provides relief for undocumented students who were brought here at an early age, who had no say in the matter or were unaware of the legal ramification of their entry
- DREAM Act would not create any new benefits for immigrant students; it would simply allow states to charge in-state tuition for college admission to their own immigrant residents on the same basis as other residents
- The DREAM Act would allow immigrant students to pay the same tuition rate as their neighbors would.
- DREAM doesn't provide any special treatments or privileges.

Senate Democrats Reintroduce Dream Act

By [JENNIFER STEINHAUER](#)

<http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/11/senate-democrats-reintroduce-dream-act/>

On the heels of [President Obama](#)'s renewed call [to overhaul the nation's immigration laws](#) in Texas on Tuesday, Senate Democrats are reintroducing a bill that would give legal status to some illegal immigrants who came into the United States as children.

Senator [Harry Reid](#) of Nevada, the majority leader, along with Senators [Dick Durbin](#) of Illinois and [Robert Menendez](#) of New Jersey, said the Senate will revive the Dream Act, one of the few signature pieces of Democratic legislation [that failed during the lame-duck session](#) of the last Congress, when Democrats controlled both chambers.

The bill would provide legal status and a path to citizenship to young people who were brought to the United States illegally as children and receive a college education or want to enter the military. Under the bill, students who came to the United States when they were 15 or under, have been in the country continually at least five years, present "good moral character," graduate from high school or obtain a G.E.D., and complete two years of college or military service in good standing would qualify.

Backers of the measure – which has failed to gain the support of Republicans – say that the bill would provide a path for more educated young people into the military and work force, and give a break to young people who did not have agency in their illegal entry into the country.

Opponents argue that the bill constitutes amnesty, and that Congress should focus on border security before considering paths to legal status for illegal immigrants.

The bill has been the subject of legislative passion for Mr. Reid and Mr. Durbin, the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, who has said he would try to pass the Dream Act as long as he is a senator.

"It didn't pass in the Senate last year when they had 59 Democrats," said Don Stewart, a spokesman for Senator [Mitch McConnell](#), the minority leader from Kentucky, who has said repeatedly that he does not support the bill. "There are some questions about its chances this year."